

Application

Yosemite Environmental Living Program

Dear Applicant,

To apply for participation, please:

1. Read the information packet so you are knowledgeable about the program goals and requirements.
2. Discuss the program with school and district level administrators to ensure that there is support for your participation.
3. Complete the application and sign the policy agreement.
4. Return the completed application to the address listed below. Applications must be postmarked by August 15.

Applications will be reviewed and selections will be made by Sept. 1. If you are selected, you will be notified by telephone at that time and a email of confirmation addressed to you at your school will follow.

If you have questions or need clarification on any aspect of the program, feel free to contact the program coordinator, Susan Michael at (559)221-4182 or the supervisor, Dean Shenk at (209)375-9504.

Yosemite Environmental Living Program Requirements

1. Participation is limited to public and private 4th through 8th-grade school groups. Applications from community groups such as Girl Scout and church groups cannot be accepted.
2. Program participation is limited to one class per night; classes should have a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 45 students.
3. All participating and waiting list teachers must participate in a 24-hour orientation workshop in the fall.
4. Teachers must have the support of school and district administrators, as well as parents. The level of support should be explored and evaluated prior to application.
5. At least five adult helpers or parents must be selected and trained and must attend the entire program. Adults assist the teacher with activities and in maintaining control. Adults must remain at the Yosemite Pioneer History Center during the entire overnight. Siblings and children who are not in the class must be left at home.
6. Each group must bring an adult who is currently certified in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Standard or Multi-Media First Aid. Proof of certification is required prior to the overnight.
7. All correspondence with the ELP Coordinator requiring a response (i.e. application, preparation outline, first aid information, etc.) will be returned by the due date. Teachers who do not meet deadlines may be eliminated from the program at any time.
10. There is a \$400 fee for the program, payable to Yosemite Association and due by March 15. Schools are responsible for all transportation, food, and supplies and materials.

Selection Of Participants

The number of applicants may exceed the number of groups that can be accommodated. Considering Yosemite's climate, the impact the program has on the historic structures, and working around the Yosemite Pioneer History Center's summer program schedule, the National Park Service schedules four ELP's each week from the 2nd or 3rd week of April through the 3rd or 4th week of May (dependent upon Memorial Day). This schedule accommodates a maximum of twenty school groups.

In an effort to ensure a fair and equitable selection, the National Park Service has identified goals for this difficult selection process. The selection process has been designed to ensure that:

1. Maximum numbers of students are allowed to participate in the program.
2. The final selection represents a broad and equitable cross-section of California's elementary school children.
3. The selection process, combined with the orientation and training program will result in the best possible use of the resource and the staff.
4. Both new and returning teachers are selected, thus ensuring continued development of the program.

Selection Procedures

1. Applications are returned to the coordinator postmarked by August 15.
2. Selections are made by Sept. 1 and teachers notified of their status by Sept. 15.
3. Teachers who are not selected will be placed on a waiting list from which names will be selected if vacancies occur. Teachers who are on the waiting list must attend the workshop to qualify for vacancies.

Selection Criteria Applied To All Applicants

1. Required application/policy agreement forms must be postmarked by the application deadline. Applications are evaluated on the basis of response to application questions and previous environmental living experience.
2. If demand for participation exceeds the number of groups that can be accommodated, a minimum of 30% of selections will be new teachers, and 70% will be returning teachers.
3. An attempt will be made to balance grade level, type of school/class, and geographic location. Since Yosemite is of national significance, no single geographic preference will be made; however, an effort will be made to represent all areas of California.

4. If two teachers from one school are selected to participate, there is no guarantee that they will be assigned consecutive overnight dates.
5. Teachers from the same school who wish to apply must submit separate applications. Teachers who team-teach one class of not more than 45 students may submit one application. Schools may not combine classes, nor may school districts combine classes from different schools. Schools with enrollments that do not meet the 15 student minimum should contact the ELP Coordinator to discuss alternatives.
6. Program reservations are given to teachers, not schools. Reservations are not transferable between teachers. If a teacher leaves the class after being accepted in to the program, the replacement teacher must contact the ELP Coordinator immediately.
7. Special consideration will be given to classes partially or entirely composed of "special needs" students.
8. Teachers and classes participating in another ELP (including those offered by state, federal, county and private sites) will not be selected for the Yosemite ELP during the same school year.

Additional Criteria Applied To Returning Teachers

1. Teachers must have met or exceeded all program requirements, including deadlines, during previous participation.
2. Program participation is generally limited to three consecutive years. A teacher who wishes to apply for more than three consecutive years may be selected if there are insufficient applications from new teachers to meet the 30% minimum selection, or if the teacher has an under-represented age group or is from an under-represented geographic area.
3. Teachers who were selected the previous year but dropped out of the program are considered returning teachers.

Application deadline is August 15

Name: _____

School: _____

School Phone: FAX: Home Phone:

Email

School Address (include city and zip): _____

Home Address: (Include city and zip): _____

Grade you teach: _____ Projected Class Enrollment: _____

Best time to be reached at school: _____ At home: _____

Type of School: Public Private

Is your school on a year-round schedule: Yes No

Please list your vacation schedules: _____

You are required to attend one workshop in the fall. Dates will be announced in late summer.

POLICY AGREEMENT: I have read and understand the Environmental Living Program requirements. I agree to meet all requirements if my class/school is selected to participate.

Teacher's signature	Date
---------------------	------

Signature of school principal
Date

Please return your completed application to: Dean Shenk, Yosemite National Park, PO Box 577,
Wawona, CA 95389

OR

Email your application to Susan Michael, program coordinator, at smm66@cvip.net.